Churches and Religion Romania

794 659 871 The religious instruction of Catholics in all kind of 16. schools, including government schools, is conducted according to directives issued by the Catholic Bishop. The directives are to be communicated also to the Ministry of Education.

The Bishop has the right to request the dismissal of teachers of Catholic religion in public or private schools, even where such teachers are appointed and paid by the Government, if the Bishop considered the teacher unqualified for this task.

[874] Finally, the Catholic Church has the right to establish all kinds of Divinity Schools for preparing the Catholic clergy. The curriculum of those schools is established by the competent Catholic Church authorities.

793 659 The Catholic bishops and their assistants, appointed by the Vatican, must be Romanian citizens and are obliged to take an oath of allegiance to the King, the Constitution and the laws of the country. Those who are not citizens are allowed to apply for citizenship within a reasonable period of time.

The appointment of the clergy is within the exclusive jurisdiction of the Church authorities. However, an appointment must be communicated, in advance, to the Ministry of Religious Affairs.

Article 27, the last article of the Concordat, states that "The two contracting parties reserve the right to denounce this Concordat after notice has been served six months in advance."

659 An additional Protocol was signed on May 30, 1932 (Official Gazette No. 180 of August 3, 1932 And ratified by Decree-Law No. 659 (Official Gazette No. 52 of March 2, 1940) pertaining to the

872 size of the classes varies from 40 to 50 children; there are five teachers. The Head takes a different class each year. The hours are from 9 to 12 and from 2 to 4. Some preparation is done at home. Holidays are generous—eight weeks in the summer, two at Easter, two at Christmas. There are no fees, but children buy their books if they can. The time-table and the syllabus are drawn up by the Minister of Education, and
[758] are the same for all schools. Inspectors visit frequently. There is a full medical inspection of each child at the beginning of the year and then each subsequent month. In the first four years the curriculum resembles that of an English elementary school; in the fifth and sixth years the girls combine with general subjects either a commercial, an industrial or a housewifery course. In the seventh year they concentrate on vocational subjects and open their morning working away from school.

We saw some good examples of handwork, clay modelling, paper-cutting pictures, dolls in national dress, etc., and in Class I—the seven-year-olds—some most amusing pictures for the teaching of numbers. Religion is taught daily; there is a religious service on the first day of each month and the children go together to church with one teacher every Sunday.
●874 If a girl wishes to become a teacher in a primary school, after four years in such a school she must spend eight in an Ecole Normale and then teach for three years before obtaining her full diploma. For secondary school teaching, after eight years in a lycée the girl goes, at nineteen, to the university for three or four years, and then spends four months in a lycée pédagogique. She then takes her "examen de capacité."

The Theological College, housed in a large red-brick building now being enlarged, takes 260 boys, many of whom come from a distance; all are boarders. The course lasts eight years: four years in the High School (12-16); four years in the College (16-20). Entrance is by means of an examination in Religion, Roumanian, Mathematics and History; there were in 1936 100 candidates for 40 places. The boys are worked very hard; lessons are from 8 to 12 and 2 to 4; preparation from 6 to 7.30 a.m. and from 7 to 9 p.m. In the High School the languages taken are Latin and French; in the College the course includes Greek, German, Pedagogy, Philosophy, Psychology, Sociology, Church History. The course at the College is followed by four years at a university.

5: Fleure S-5 (no date)1939 EDl Rumania EDl

874 THE TECHNICAL or Trade School is one of forty such schools in the country. The Minister of Education has ordered this number to be doubled. The boys come from all districts and can go on to a higher grade Trade School. There is a still higher grade of school in Roumania called the Academy, from which pupils are turned out as teachers.

IN THIS TRADE School at Curtea de Argeş the boys live in and pay an inclusive fee of 4,500 lei per annum; those attending as day boys pay only 760 lei per annum. Two-thirds of these fees must be paid at the beginning of the session; the cost of material is not included.

BOYS can enter between the ages of 11 and 15; the number taken is 100. They are divided into four classes. The subjects taught are Woodwork, Pottery and Tailoring. In woodwork, when the boys leave they are considered to have qualified in all the processes of house-building and furnishing. [32] In pottery, the chief industry of this town, the *traditional* shapes, colouring and decoration (mostly of ships) are charming, but *modern* designs and shapes are less good and often tasteless.

[33] THE CLASSROOMS are airy and heated by stoves. The boys sit in couples. The walls are hung with pictures of Roumanian history and of architectural interest, e.g. York Minster, Notre Dame, the Forum, etc. Each room has a religious picture. The woodwork room is large; each bench has a wooden vice; the wood is neatly stacked on a large shelf a few feet from the roof. Few tools were seen, as they were being prepared for next session. There is a room set apart for exhibiting the work done. All articles are for sale, and the pupil gets most of the money. Both the french polishing and the chip carving reach an excellent standard.

[ ] THE MILITARY SERVICE required from boys attending Trade Schools is of one year's duration only. There are in the country five Higher Trade Schools—at Bucureşti, Braşov, Craiova, Iassi and Turgul Mureş.

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owner's farm, where the cows are kept in sheds, and the sheep, which are more hardy, are penned on the arable land, particularly on the maize stubble. Both sheep and cattle are fed on fodder crops during the winter. The surplus animals are sold at the autumn fair, and form a source of revenue.

Whilst on the high pastures the sheep are clipped twice, and the wool is divided amongst the peasants in proportion to the number of animals sent up. The cheese is usually shared by the owners of the animals in the same way, the mayor and his committee being responsible for the correct apportionment. In the Valley of the Argeş co-operative dealers from Bucharest frequently buy the cheese "in bulk" direct from the commune, and the monetary value is shared between the owners of the animals.

Oxen are used almost exclusively for draught purposes, the numbers kept in this district being somewhat in excess of the farmers' requirements, owing to their use for lumbering (see below).

Peasant farming in the Valley of the Argeş is no longer entirely on a subsistence basis. Two factors have tended to modify it. Firstly, the position of the valley, opening as it does directly on the Wallachian Plain, with its rich grain lands and containing the capital Bucharest, has allowed commercial intercourse to develop. The Argeş peasant no longer cultivates wheat; he does not mind if his maize crop is good enough for fodder only, for he can buy both wheat and maize from the plain. Further, he finds a ready market and so a money income in Bucharest for his surplus fruit, particularly apples, and cheese. Secondly, the forests form a valuable asset to the peasant. During the winter felling takes place in the upper basin of the Argeş; in spring and summer the timber is transported, and work in the State mill in Curtea goes on all the year round. Practically every household has somebody working in the timber trade, and the money so earned (as much as 100 lei per day for a man supplying his own yoke of oxen) reduces the dependence of the family on the farm.

At Curtea de Argeş is the School of Agriculture, Regina Elizabeta. Although only a small percentage of its pupils is local, it is gradually influencing the farming of the neighbourhood. Experiments in cultivation, plant breeding and

5: Fleure S-5 (no date)1939 EDl Rumania EDl

the use of machinery are carried on at the school. Advisers are sent out to the farms, and seeds and plants, as well as artificial manure, are supplied to the peasants at a very low cost. Machinery is also loaned out cheaply. The average peasant, however, is very conservative, and progress is slow.

SOME DETAILS OF TWO FARMS: AUGUST 1936

FARM A

SIZE: one half-hectare approximately. This farm is situated approximately two miles north of Curtea de Argeş.

THE HOLDING consists of a narrow rectangular strip, bounded on one of its long sides by a rough lane and on its short side by the main road. The ground is fairly level and sufficiently above the river to be well drained. (See Plan A for utilization of land and arrangement of buildings.)

Animals

2 milking cows, 2 calves (at farm), but no oxen (this was unusual).
10 sheep, away on high pastures.
3 pigs, at farm.
10 geese, 6 ducks, 50 hens.

FARM B

SIZE: Five hectares approximately. This farm is situated at Corbeni, several kilometres north of Curtea de Argeş, at a point where the river valley widens out and the river braids. The farm is situated on the second terrace. The plot is rectangular, with its narrow side bordered by the road and its long side running parallel to the river, thus giving a well-drained but flat holding. The son of the owner holds a diploma for agriculture and the farm shows every evidence of prosperity. See PLAN B for utilization of land and arrangement of buildings.

241 be clearly traced to the carelessness with which the law of
423 land distribution had been drafted, and to the utter neglect
[511] to provide financial means for its rational application, as well
167 as to the export taxes on agricultural produce. The outcome was appalling, as may be judged from an article in the *Cuvantul* in which, after dilating on the causes that had brought about this disaster, it was asserted: "We are obliged to admit that the entire rural population had reached a state of pauperism at a time when we should reasonably have expected it to be thriving, since it had been endowed with lands. It seems a paradox, yet we have only wrecked the old system of production, founded on the unjust system of latifundia, in order to replace serfdom by pauperism. At the time of the large estates the rural worker had no need to emigrate; on the contrary, there was a shortage of labour, and foreign labourers had to be admitted from neighbouring countries. To-day, however, we are forced to direct the rural population abroad so as to save it from starvation; that is the situation we have reached ten years after the enactment of the expropriation laws. . . ." According to the *Adeverul* of March 29th, 1929, the Minister for Agriculture, speaking about the state of that industry, drew a very dark picture and lamented the wretched condition to which agricultural production had fallen. Rumanian agriculture, once the source of wealth and the economic basis of the State, was, he said, on the verge of ruin. The Minister not only condemned the culpable manner in which the land distribution law had been carried out, but also denounced the laxity and incapacity of the functionaries who had been appointed to show the peasants new methods of cultivation. According to him, the so-called model school farms were a positive disgrace. . . . Apparently matters have not improved since, for
241 as late as March, 1932, one could read in the *Ellenzek*, a
874 paper published in Hungarian at Cluj, that the Hungarian Cultural Association of Transylvania had decided to present a petition to the League of Nations to demand the creation of an agricultural school destined exclusively for sons of Rumanian citizens of Hungarian nationality. One ought not to feel surprise that the Hungarian minority, convinced of the glaring ineptitude of the Rumanian administration, had

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at last been compelled to assume at its own expense the professional training of its youth.

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It is sad to record that even in educational institutions the remissness which has characterized Rumanian administration has not been adequately grappled with, and it is not surprising that the laxity manifested in this particular domain should appear especially odious to the national minorities in Rumania, which have a different moral conception of life than that of the predominating nationality. That there is much to be done in this department is obvious to all, owing to the persistence of the complaints. A storm of indignation was raised by the scandalous condition of the College of Salonta, in Transylvania, in which some 400 Hungarian and Rumanian students were being educated. Of this number of students, 50 per cent were incapacitated, owing to the disgusting lack of hygiene prevailing, and the anarchic system on which it was conducted. The parents of the students had to petition the Minister of Education to obtain amelioration of the methods in vogue, and the details exposed were so revolting that the *Cuvantul* of March 28th, 1929, commenting on them, more or less admitted that such facts justified the opprobrious epithet of " putrid Wallachs " conferred on the latter by the Hungarians.

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From this it may be deduced that agriculture had already been ruined through the culpable remissness of Rumania's rulers before the present crisis made itself felt. The country was caught like some disabled ship by the economic hurricane which suddenly sprang up, and materially it is suffering intensely, because in its battered condition it finds it difficult to weather the storm. Fortunately, the peasantry has been used to a life of suffering and hard toil; the peasants are patient and long-suffering to an extent inconceivable in the West. Docile and good-humoured, they put up with a situation that a Westerner would long since have found intolerable and against which he would have revolted. Poverty-stricken and unguided, the peasant has not only been left to provide the means wherewith to develop his farm, but at the same time he has been forced to supply from his own scanty resources the needs of the urban populations and the bulk of the funds requisite for carrying on the administration